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EXMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR

1955.

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Public Health Department,
Exmouth.

I N D E X.

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EXMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department,
Templetown Lodge,
Esplanade,
EXMOUTH

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1955.

It will be seen that the general health of the people resident in the Urban District has been satisfactory. The incidence of infectious diseases has been particularly low during the year, and I am pleased to say that for the ninth consecutive year, (since 1946) there has been no case of Diphtheria. It should be noted that arrangements are now in force for inoculation of children against Whooping Cough and Diphtheria. The importance of all children being immunised against Diphtheria before the age of one year is again stressed, as it is only by maintaining a high percentage of immunised children that we can prevent a return of this dreaded disease.

As regards the statistics for the area, the number of births increased from 205 in 1954, to 216 in 1955; and the number of deaths decreased from 326 in 1954 to 291 in 1955. I am pleased to say that the average age of death still remains slightly above the average for the country as a whole.

It is gratifying to note the decrease in the number of deaths due to accidents - only three having occurred. The number of motor accidents decreased from 2 in 1954 to 1 in 1955, and the number of other accidents decreased from 9 in 1954 to 2 in 1955.

I should again like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation for the help and support which all members of the Council have given me, and to thank the Sanitary Inspector, Engineer and all members of the staff for their willing co-operation and able assistance, given to me during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

L.G. ANDERSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

S T A F F.Medical Officer of Health:

L.G. Anderson, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

Mr. D.R. Redgwell, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

Mr. B.J. Stowell, M.S.I.A.
(Commenced duties 1st June, 1955).

Engineer, Surveyor, and Water Engineer:

Mr. R.J. Humphreys, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H.

Deputy Surveyor:

Mr. W.J. Whitsed.

Housing Officer:

Mr. E.R. Ashton A.I. Hsg.

Clerk to Medical Officer of Health and
Sanitary Inspector:

Miss P.A. Macnamara.

1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	5,295
Resident Population Mid Year 1955. (as estimated by the Registrar General) ...	17,590
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955)	6,186
Rateable value as at the 1st April 1955 ...	£196,382
Product of a penny rate. Ditto. .	778
Rateable value as at 1st April 1956 ...	£359,193
Estimated Product of a penny rate ...	1,400

2. VITAL STATISTICS(a) Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	110	102	212
Illegitimate	2	2	4
Total	112	104	216

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	12.3
Standardised live birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	14.7
Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population England & Wales.	15.0

(b) Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	3	3	6

Still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births	27.8
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births England & Wales.	23.1

(c) Deaths

	Males	Females	Total
	129	162	291
Corrected death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			16.5
Standardised death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			9.9
Death rate per 1,000 civilian population England & Wales.			11.7
Death from maternal causes.			Nil.

(d) Infant Mortality

(Deaths of infants under 1 year of age).

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	4	3	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	4	3	7

Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births 32.4
 Infant Mortality per 1,000 births England & Wales 24.9

3. LIVE BIRTH RATE

(Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population)

During 1955, 112 male and 104 female (total 216) babies were born. As compared with 1954 the total births increased by 11. The standardised rate per 1,000 estimated resident population was 14.7 which is slightly lower than the rate for England & Wales as a whole (15.0)

In England & Wales the total live births registered for the year was 664,711 which was 8,601 fewer than the total for 1954, and represents a live birth rate per 1,000 population of 15.0.

The standardised live birth rate during the last 10 years was as follows:-

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Exmouth	18.6	16.2	14.2	14.4	12.05	12.4	13.5	13.9	10.9	12.3
Standardised	#	#	#	#	13.0	13.1	14.2	14.8	13.1	14.7
England & Wales	19.2	20.6	17.9	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3	15.5	15.2	15.0

4. ILLEGITIMATE BIRTH RATE

(Rate per 1,000 total live births).

Of the 216 children born during 1955, 4 were illegitimate which is 2 more than in the previous year. The rate per 1,000 total live and still births was 18.5.

The illegitimate birth rates during the last 10 years were as follows:-

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Exmouth	72.2	60.7	54.2	41.2	58.2	42.6	51.7	66.2	9.8	18.5
England & Wales	#	#	#	#	#	47.0	46.0	#	#	#

Figures not available.

5. STILL BIRTHS

(Rate per 1,000 live and still births).

The number of still births which occurred during 1955 viz. 6 was 5 more than in the previous year and the still birth rate of 27.8 was higher than that for England & Wales as a whole (23.1). The subjoined table shows the still birth rate for the last 10 years:-

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Exmouth	#	32.9	20.3	16.2	37.4	18.5	37.4	16.0	4.8	27.8
England & Wales	#	#	#	#	22.7	23.0	22.6	22.4	24.0	23.1

6. DEATHS

During 1955, 291 persons normally resident in the urban district died (129 males and 162 females) which represents a corrected death rate of 16.5 but when allowance for age and sex distribution has been made represents a "standardised" death rate of 9.9. This is slightly lower than that for England & Wales viz. 11.7. The following table shows the corrected and standardised death rates for Exmouth for the last 10 years:-

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Corrected	19.8	18.0	15.0	16.8	16.8	19.5	16.2	15.6	18.1	16.5
Standardised	-	-	-	11.2	11.2	12.6	10.5	10.2	11.0	9.9
England & Wales	11.5	12.0	10.8	11.7	11.6	12.5	11.3	11.4	11.3	11.7

(b) Age at death

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Males						70.0	70.8	66.9	70.7	67.6
Females						76.0	70.6	71.3	72.4	75.0
Both sexes	72	73	69.8	69.8	71.1	73.2	70.7	69.3	71.8	73.3
England M & Wales = F						66.49	65.14	67.06	67.3	67.58
						71.22	70.88	72.35	72.44	73.05

* Expectation of life - On the basis of the death-rates for the year 1954, the expectation of life of a boy at birth is 67.58, and of a girl 73.05. This compares with 67.30 years and 72.44 years respectively, on the basis of the 1953 death-rates, and with 48.43 and 52.38 on the basis of the death rates for 1901-1910.

(c) Causes of death

The following table shows the causes of death (data supplied by the Registrar General).

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis			
Respiratory	2	2	4
Other Forms	-	-	-
Cancer			
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	4	7
Malignant neoplasm, long & bronchus	7	1	8
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3	3
Other Malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	8	17	25
Syphilitic Disease	2	-	2
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
Diabetes	2	1	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	22	23	45
Coronary disease angina	26	18	44
Hypertension with heart disease	3	2	5
Other heart disease	16	46	62
Other circulatory disease	1	4	5
Influenza	1	2	3
Pneumonia	-	3	3
Bronchitis	4	1	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	7	9
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	5	2	7
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	-	4
Congenital malformations	2	1	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	15	16	31
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	-	2	2
Suicide	1	1	2
All causes	129	162	291

The most prevalent cause of death during 1955 was again that of heart disease, 111 cases (38.2% total deaths). Cancer was the cause of 46 cases (15.8% total deaths), and intra-cranial vascular lesions such as cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis was responsible for 45 deaths (15.5% total deaths).

(d) Deaths due to Motor Accidents.

Male 56 - Fracture of the base of the skull, shock and multiple injuries accidentally sustained whilst riding a Motor Cycle in collision with a motor lorry.

Deaths due to Other Accidents

Female 82 - Cerebral Haemorrhage accelerated by a fall at home.

Female 85 - Shock and circulatory failure following a fracture of the left femur (fall in ward).

Deaths by Suicide.

Female 55 - Aspirin poisoning whilst the balance of her mind was disturbed.

Male 51 - Coal gas poisoning self-administered, whilst the balance of his mind was disturbed.

(e) The following table shows the incidence of death at various age groups (from returns supplied by the local Registrar of Births and Deaths).

	Males	Females	Total	Percentage
Under 1 year	4	3	7	2.4
1, and under 2 yrs	1	-	1	0.34
2 +	-	-	-	-
5 +	-	-	-	-
10 +	1	-	1	0.34
20 +	-	2	2	0.69
30 +	1	2	3	1.03
40 +	5	3	8	2.75
50 +	16	6	22	7.56
60 +	28	23	51	17.52
70 +	45	54	99	34.02
80 +	25	54	79	27.15
90 - 100	3	15	18	6.19
All Ages	129	162	291	-

7. INFANT MORTALITY.

The infant mortality rate represents the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births registered.

During 1955, 7 infants, 4 male and 3 female, under the age of 1 year died. This represents an infant mortality rate of 52.4 which is above that for England & Wales (24.9).

It is interesting to recall that 50 years ago in 1905 the infant mortality rate was 120.37.

The causes of death of the 7 infants were as follows:-

Sex	Age	Cause of Death
M	3 hours	Cerebral Haemorrhage.
M	1 week	Congenital Malformation.
M	4 months	Congenital Deformity.
F	1 hour	Blood Disease.
F	12 hours	Prematurity.
M	3 weeks	Congenital Deformity.
F	1 week	Congenital Defects.

8. DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES

	Males	Females	Total
Measles	-	-	-
Whooping cough	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Diarrhoea	-	-	-

9. CANCER.

Deaths from Cancer decreased from 55 in 1954 to 46 in 1955, and in relation to the total number of deaths, the rate per cent decreased from 16.9 in 1954 to 15.8 in 1955.

The parts of the body affected are given in the following table:-

Site	Males	Females	Total
Stomach	3	4	7
Lung & Bronchus	7	1	8
Breast	-	3	3
Uterus	-	3	3
All other sites	8	17	25
Total	18	28	46

The incidence of deaths from Cancer during the last 10 years is follows:-

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
No. of cases	68	40	45	40	51	50	48	39	55	46
Percentage Total No. of deaths	21.0	18.5	17.4	14.1	17.8	15.0	17.5	14.4	16.9	15.8
Rate per 1,000 resident population	4.56	2.43	2.65	2.37	2.98	2.92	2.8	2.23	3.16	2.62

10. INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During 1955, 73 cases of notifiable infectious diseases were notified, which is 100 less than in the previous year.

It should be noted that in both 1954 and 1955 the incidence of Measles and Whooping Cough was relatively low, which means that in 1956 there will be a far larger child population susceptible to these diseases and the incidence will, no doubt be high.

(a) Measles

There were only a few cases of Measles (29) and these were of a mild nature.

The seasonal incidence of Measles in Exmouth and England & Wales as a whole was as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jly	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Exmouth	-	-	-	1	5	8	6	3	1	1	1	3
	-			14			10			5		
England & Wales	245,937			316,826			99,734			31,244		

(b) Poliomyelitis

The two cases of Poliomyelitis in the Exmouth Urban District were as follows:-

- (1) A boy aged 8 years living in the Littleham district: a mild case with no residual paralysis.
- (2) A boy age $14\frac{1}{2}$ years, arrived on holiday with his family at the Sandy Bay Holiday Camp during August Bank Holiday week-end, and on Friday, 5th August he became unwell and was seen by a local Doctor and subsequently was sent to the Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Hospital, Exeter and from there to the Whipton Isolation Hospital at Exeter on the 9th August where it was confirmed he was suffering from Poliomyelitis. He was then transferred to the Ham Green Hospital Bristol on the 11th August.

(c) Tabular Statements of Infectious Diseases

The incidence during 1955 of the various infectious diseases is tabulated herewith.

Disease	Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital
Measles	29	-
Whooping Cough	15	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1
Scarlet Fever	12	-
Pneumonia	9	2
Dysentery	2	2
Erysipelas	1	-
Food Poisoning	1	-
Poliomyelitis	2	2
Total	73	7

(d) The following table shows the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases grouped according to age:-

	Under 1 year	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+	Total
Measles	1	3	3	6	1	10	3	2					29
Whooping cough	2	3	2	3	2	3							15
Scarlet Fever				1	-	8	2	1					12
Pneumonia			1			2	1	1	2			2	9
Dysentery						1				1			2
Erysipelas											1		1
Food Poisoning					1								1
Puerperal Pyrexia									2				2
Poliomyelitis						1		1					2

(e) Table showing the incidence (numbers notified) of various infectious diseases during the last 10 years:-

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Measles	11	127	135	42	6	533	13	426	69	29
Whooping Cough	53	40	22	40	140	19	28	108	45	15
Scarlet Fever	13	2	5	19	11	12	51	26	33	12
Diphtheria	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	2
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	1	-	49	-	1	2
Pneumonia	4	2	-	4	7	-	-	25	19	9
Erysipelas	-	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	-	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	2

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11. TUBERCULOSIS

During 1955, 17 new cases of Tuberculosis (7 males and 10 females) were notified.

The age distribution of new cases, localisation of the disease and deaths from Tuberculosis during 1955 were as follows:-

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY		RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0- 1								
1-								
3-								
15-		4	1	1				
25-	1							
35-		1		2				
45-	3			1	1			
55-		1	1			1		
65-	1							
All ages	5	6	2	4	1	1		
	11		6		2		-	
			17			2		

The number of cases still on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year were:-

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	77	65	142
Non-Pulmonary	16	24	40
Total	93	89	182

On receipt of a notification of Tuberculosis, the housing conditions, milk supply etc., are investigated in collaboration with the Chest Physician and where necessary appropriate recommendation made to the relevant Committee.

The incidence of new cases of Tuberculosis brought to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health during the period 1946-1955.

		1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
PULMONARY	M	8	11	4	5	7	5	7	7	5	5
	F	4	7	4	5	12	5	7	7	5	6
NON-PULMONARY	M	1	1	3	2	2	-	1	2	-	2
	F	-	4	1	-	3	5	1	-	1	4
TOTAL		13	23	12	12	24	15	16	16	11	17

Table showing incidence of all forms of Tuberculosis.
(Rates per 1,000 estimated resident population).

YEAR	CASES NOTIFIED	DEATH RATE
1904	?	1.08
1910	?	1.17
1912	1.40	0.99
1920	2.24	1.50
1930	1.07	0.68
1938	0.98	0.39
1952	0.93	0.29
1953	0.93*	0.058
1954	0.63	0.057
1955	0.97	0.11

12.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT

The Health Services provided by the Local Health Authority (Devon County Council) under Part II and III of the Act applicable to your district are briefly set out herewith.

PART II

(a) HOSPITAL FACILITIES

(i) General

The urban district is well served by the Exmouth Cottage Hospital, Claremont Grove, Exmouth ('phone Exmouth 4381) where there is accommodation for:

Male	12 beds
Female	15 beds
Children	5 beds and 4 cots.
Private Wards	8
Accident Bed	1

In addition to the Exmouth Cottage Hospital, use is made of:-

1. Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, Southernhay East ('phone 72261)
320 beds. (5 for premature babies).
2. Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Hospital, Buckercell Bore,
Exeter (phone 54217) 116 beds
3. West of England Eye Infirmary, Magdalen Street, Exeter,
(phone 73183) 56 beds.

The plastic surgery centre for Devon is held at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital on the 2nd Thursday in each month from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30. Mr. Fitz-Gibbons and Mr. Bodenham of the S.W. Regional Hospital Board attend.

(ii) Maternity

1. Poltmore Nursing Home - 4 beds.
2. Redhills Hospital, St. Thomas, Exeter - 10 beds.
3. Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital for complicated or difficult cases.

(iii) Isolation.

Cases of Infectious Diseases are admitted to Exeter City Isolation Hospital, Whipton (Phone Exeter 67158) as in previous years.

I would like to record my sincere appreciation for the ready help and co-operation given at all times by Dr. Boyd, the Resident Physician and Staff of the Hospital.

(iv) Smallpox

A smallpox hospital of 28 beds at Upton Pyne administered by the Regional Hospital Board is available in case of need, (Tel: Stoke Canon 207).

Should your Medical Officer of Health require the services of a consultant, arrangements have been made to call upon:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	
		<u>By Day</u>	<u>By Night</u>
Dr.C. Seward	20, Southernhay West, Exeter	Exeter 72110	Exmouth 4120
or			
Dr. W.J. Laird	City Hospital, Exeter.	Exeter 72671 (office)	Exeter 73116 (Home)
Dr.A.H.G.Down	1, The Mede, Whipton Exeter.	Exeter 73805	Exeter 67121

(b) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Bacteriological and Serological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, 7, Dix's Field, Exeter, (Tel. No: Exeter 54959), under the direction of Dr. B. Moore, whose ready co-operation and help I wish to acknowledge.

(c) VENEREAL DISEASE

Under the present scheme free advice and treatment is available to all persons at the following centre:-

<u>EXETER</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>
Royal Devon & Exeter	Mon. 7 - 8 p.m. Fri. 2 - 3 p.m.	Mon. 6 - 7 p.m. Fri. 3 - 4 p.m.

(d) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Three ambulances are maintained at the Ambulance Station, Bastin Hall, Elm Grove, Exmouth (Tel. No: Exmouth 2857).

In the district served, the ambulances have carried 2,061 patients, an increase of 368 on last year; attended 188 accidents and covered 30,012 miles, an increase of 4,731 on last year.

PART III(c) CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

Two Health Visitors are assigned to this district. Voluntary assistance is rendered at the various centres by Ladies of the town. Such assistance is greatly appreciated.

The two Medical Officers who attend the Infant Welfare Centres are (a) Dr. Dawe of Budleigh Salterton and (b) Dr. L.G. Anderson, your Medical Officer of Health. The Centres are held at St. Clements, Exeter Road, Exmouth on Wednesdays and Fridays from 2.30.p.m. to 4.30.p.m., and the Church Hall, Littleham on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month.

During the year the following attendances were made:-

(i) St. Clements

Total No. of attendances of Mothers.	Total No. of babies attending	Total No. of Toddlers attending
2,995 (of which 205 were first attendances)	2,428 (of which 166 cases were first attendances.)	994 (of which 74 were first attendances.)

(ii) Littleham

Total No. of attendances of Mothers.	Total No. of babies attending.	Total No. of Toddlers attending
591 (of which 30 were first attendances).	327 (of which 30 cases were first attendances.)	484 (of which 20 were first attendances).

Welfare foods are supplied at the St. Clements Infant Welfare Centre on Wednesday and Friday afternoons of each week, and at the Church Hall Littleham on the afternoons of the 2nd and 4th Mondays in each month.

(f) MATERNITY

There are 6 District Nurse Midwives in this district viz:-

Nurse Snaith Nurse Griffey Nurse Burrington
Nurse Warne Nurse Newell Nurse Shaw.

who reside at No.2, Albion Hill, Exmouth (Tel.No: Exmouth 2237). Each nurse is in possession of a motorcar. All are fully trained in gas and air analgesia and two apparatus are available for their use. One oxygen resuscitation apparatus is also held at the Nurses' home for use when required.

(g) CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS

When necessary, arrangements can be made for the admission of a premature baby and its mother to the nearest Maternity unit, in this case the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital Exeter; where there are 5 cots available.

(h) DENTAL CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

A well equipped dental surgery is provided at St. Clements, Exeter Road, Exmouth at which dental treatment can be given to mothers and young children.

(i) IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

During 1955, 155 children were given a primary course of Diphtheria immunisation, and 325 were given boosting doses. It should be noted that the immunisation scheme has now (at the time of writing) been extended to include immunisation against Whooping Cough and Poliomyelitis. The present practice is to offer vaccination against Smallpox at the age of 3 months, and to give the three injections of the combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough immunisations at 4, 5 and 6 months of age. Boosting doses are still required against Diphtheria at the ages of 5 years and 10 years.

3. WATER SUPPLY.(a) Source of Supply.

The town has two sources from which its water supply is obtained, namely:-

1. The Catchment Area at Squabmoor which feeds into an impounding Reservoir, and
2. Two boreholes at Dotton in the Parish of Colaton Ralcigh.

During the year the new pipeline from the Capel Lane Works to the Blackhill Reservoir site has been completed, and the construction of the new 1,000,000 gallons capacity Service Reservoir brought near to completion.

Work was commenced upon the provision of New Distribution Mains in the Town area, necessary to overcome the supply difficulties, and an approval was obtained to the provision of a water supply for the Sandy Bay Holiday Park. The pipeline to Sandy Bay was completed, and work commenced upon the construction of the Service Reservoir there. Considerable extensions to the Water Mains Systems generally, have been made in the Town area, in order to cover new developments.

(b) Quality.

Water has generally been very satisfactory in quality during the year, but over a short period it was felt advisable to keep the Squabmoor supply out of service due to abnormally high pollution attributed to the very dry Summer Season. The last analysis is as follows:-

W.204. High Filters, Exmouth Reservoir.

Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml - Nil.

W.203. Lower Filters, Exmouth Reservoir.

Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml - Nil.

W.202. East Budleigh Reservoir.

Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml - Nil.

W.201. Bystock Reservoir.

Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml - Nil.

W.206. Borehole at Dotton.

Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml - Nil.

(c) Quantity.

The consumption continued to rise but no difficulties were experienced in meeting the demand.

(d) Total number of Properties connected to Main Supply and Number of Connections made during 1955

There are at present 6,182 properties connected to the main supply and during 1955, 201 connections were made.

14. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year, the construction of the new Storm Water Pumping Station at Hartopp Road was completed and the Station brought into operation.

The work of constructing the Courtlands Cross Sewer to service the new development taking place was completed.

15. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The maintenance of the existing conveniences has been satisfactory throughout the year, although great difficulties are being experienced in recruiting Attendants for the Summer Season.

16. PUBLIC CLEANSING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL

Towards the end of the year, the tipping at King George's Field has stopped and operations transferred to the marshland in Carter Avenue. However, steps were taken to secure the long term use of the Withycombe Brickpit as a site for the disposal of refuse by controlled tipping.

17. SWIMMING POOL

The swimming Pool has continued to be very popular both with residents and visitors.

18. The following paragraphs 18 - 24 have been kindly supplied by the Sanitary Inspector.

In considering this section of the report, it should be noted that the Department has been under-staffed until Mr. B.J. Stowell commenced his duties as Additional Sanitary Inspector in June 1955.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

	<u>Number</u>	<u>No. of Inspections</u>
Premises visited, total number		
under sub-headings below	117	174
1. New Drains	1	2
2. Drains repaired	17	35
3. W.C.'s reconstructed or repaired	5	8
4. House roofs repaired	7	19
5. House yard paving repaired	-	-
6. House walls and floors repaired	31	36
7. Other house repairs	28	26
8. Ashbins provided	-	-
9. Nuisances abated	28	48
Miscellaneous (complaints, caravans mosquitoes etc....)		799
Number of informal notices served (general)		46

In addition to the above, visits were made to various premises as shown under the following different headings:-

19. DISINFECTION

	<u>Number</u>	
Disinfection of Bedding (lots)	6	
Disinfection of Premises	11	Visits made - 17.

(In five houses use was made of "Gammexane D 034" and "Gammexane" Smoke Generators for destroying fleas.)

20. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Number of Houses (Council found to be infested)	0
Number of Houses (Other than Council found to be infested)	0
Number of Houses (Other than Council found to be infested disinfested)	0

21. CAMPING SITES.

There are four sites within the urban district licensed by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for camping purposes and are as follows:-

1. Sandy Bay Holiday Park

Fields at Westdown Farm, Littleham, bearing Ordnance Survey Numbers, 187, 190, 197, 198, 200, 201, 203, 512, 514, 515, 516, 519, 520, 521, 523, 524, 526, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535 and 536. Area: 159.7 acres. Licensed for 475 moveable dwellings.

2. Foxholes Hill

Fields at Maer Farm and Foxholes Hill, bearing Ordnance Survey Numbers 471, 475 and 497. Area: 14.6 acres. Licensed for 150 caravans of a type approved by the Council.

3. Orcombe Heights

Fields at Orcombe Heights bearing Ordnance Survey Numbers 499 and 503. Area: 22.3 acres. Licensed for 20 tents or trailer caravans of a type approved by the Council.

4. Higher Orcombe

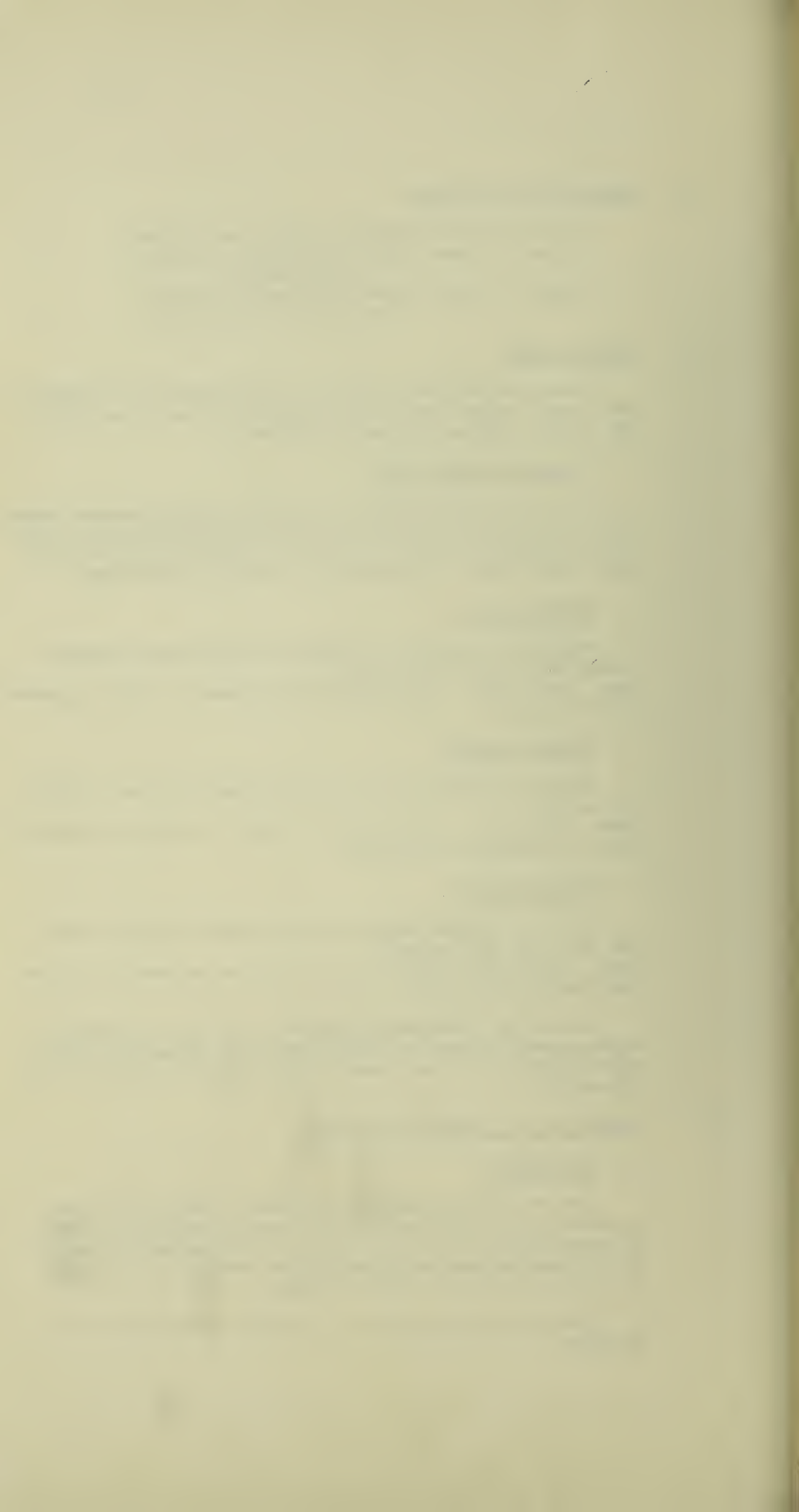
Fields at Higher Orcombe bearing Ordnance Survey Numbers 500, 502, 504, 506 and 507. Area: 24.7 acres. Licensed for 82 trailer caravans of a type approved by the Council.

During the out-of-season periods of the year, the work of laying sewers at Sandy Bay Holiday Park was continued and the following fields are now sewered: 519, 520, 521, 531, 532, 533 535 and 536.

22. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD(a) Milk Supply

Out of a total number of 18 dairies, there are 5 of them in which milk is still bottled, but only in small quantities. The remaining 13 are used as premises for distributing bottled milk already bottled at larger premises outside the district. 34 visits were made to these premises.

In August there ceased to be any milk pasteurised in the district.



One dairy has been modernised in order to comply with the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 so that milk can be bottled in accordance with the requirements of the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949. This has included the making of impervious wall surfaces, the provision of a sink together with a hot water heater.

In another case a room has been adapted as a dairy so that cream in bulk can be split up and put into smaller containers for sale or despatch by post to different parts of the country. The work carried out comprised rendering wall surfaces impervious, hot water heater, provision of a refrigerator, and redecoration of the room.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

(i) Unsound Food.

Food condemned as unfit for human consumption consisted of:-

<u>MEAT.</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>grs.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
Beef (Bone Taint)	294	2	2	14

OTHER FOODS

Cod Roes (decomposing)	70			
Pork Pies (moulded)	85			
Wet Fish (decomposing)	112			
Fish Cakes (decomposing)	392			
Prunes (fermenting)	50			
Pork Sausages (decomposing)	158			
Prawns (decomposing)	16			
Brawn (decomposing)	6	7	3	21

TINNED MEATS

Cooked Ham	(contents)	521			
Minced Beef Loaf	(decomposed,)	3			
Corned Beef	(leaking)	165			
Stewed Steak	(or)	32			
Jellied Veal	(tins blown)	48			
Luncheon Meat		120			
Ox Tonques		18			
			8	0	11

TINS OF FOOD (ASSORTED)

No. of Tins.

407 (tins punctured or blown)	513	4	2	9
Total of all foods condemned		23	0	27

This again is an increase of 3 cwts. compared with last year's figure.

There are no slaughterhouses in use within the urban district.

During the year 296 visits were made to meat shops, cooked meat shops, provision stores, fish shops, fried fish shops, green-grocers and fruit shops.

In connection with the meat shops, work has been found necessary at 4 premises. In two cases redecoration was required whilst structural repairs were needed in another instance. In the fourth premises, improvement was effected in the wall surfaces of the preparation room. One other firm has made improvements to their shop, middle room, and redecorated the preparation room as part of their own programme of food hygiene.

It was necessary to remind the proprietor of a greengrocery business that the interior of his shop required redecoration.

With regard to the provision stores, four of them have been redecorated, whilst in one case attention was directed to the cleanliness of the sanitary accommodation. One firm improved their premises by altering the lay-out and equipment at their suggestion but in consultation with the Department. Another proprietor has co-operated by the provision of a refrigerator for the bulk storage of bacon.

A request was received regarding the design and equipment of a fried fish shop. Advice and information was given which resulted in the shop and preparation room being satisfactorily constructed and equipped. A structural improvement has been effected in a fish shop.

(ii) Catering Establishments.

The standard of cleanliness has remained good, and it is evident that care has been taken in the preparation, cooking and serving of meals in the district.

Although more time is required than in the case of a normal routine inspection, during each visit, education is given in food hygiene. This has taken the form of advice to the proprietor upon the work of his staff during the operations of food preparation, washing up, etc. Also some general information has been given at the same time.

The number of visits paid to these places was 47.

(c) Ice Cream

During the year 14 samples of ice cream were taken from the manufacturers in the district for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory, and the results were satisfactory as follows:-

GRADE I	58%
GRADE II	42%
GRADE III	-
GRADE IV	-

Below is given a tabulated statement of the result of samples since 1950:-

GRADE	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
I	30 (67%)	47 (82%)	46 (90%)	54 (83%)	24 (86%)	8 (58%)
II	10 (22%)	8 (14%)	4 (8%)	10 (15%)	4 (14%)	6 (42%)
III	5 (11%)	1 (2%)	1 (2%)	1 (2%)	-	-
IV	-	1 (2%)	-	-	-	-

The producers were at all times co-operative and as in the previous year a copy of each Laboratory report was sent to the manufacturer concerned.

The number of visits made to premises where ice cream was manufactured or sold was 83.

The low number of samples taken has been entirely due to the shortage of staff and the Housing Survey. When the Additional Sanitary Inspector commenced his duties in June 1955, it was then necessary to concentrate on the Housing Survey which had to be completed by the end of August. This meant that it was impossible to do very little in the way of other routine inspections until September when the season for this commodity was practically over. However, in view of the small total number of samples it was possible to take, the percentages are satisfactory and would probably have compared as favourably as with those for the previous year.

Two new retailers were requested to provide hot water facilities before their registration was granted.

(d) Bakehouses.

Apart from two instances, the Bakehouses have been maintained in a satisfactory manner despite the fact that some of the premises are old. Upon advice, improvements have been effected in providing better wall surfaces and a new ceiling at one of the older establishments. In another the bakehouse has been closed off from the goods entrance section and new flour bins provided.

32 visits were made to the bakehouses.

During the year four successful prosecutions were taken under Section 3 and Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938.

(e) Shellfish

Regular visits were made to the Shellfish Factory at the docks occupied by Messrs. Exe Shellfish Limited. As in the previous year it was evident that detailed consideration is given to maintaining a high standard of hygiene at the Factory.

Twelve samples of cockles and mussels were taken at the Factory during the inspections and sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Exeter for bacteriological examination. All the samples were reported as "Satisfactory."

23. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

General

Approximately the same number of complaints as last year were received regarding rats and mice. All complaints were satisfactorily dealt with by the occupier of the premises upon advice from the Department.

Sewer Rats

A 10% test baiting of the sewers, as requested by the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries was carried out between 17th - 27th of October 1955. It was pleasing to note that once again, as two consecutive "No Takes" were recorded on alternative days for each manhole baited, the sewer system was considered to be free from rats.

Council Property.

During the year the King George V Ground, Refuse Tip and the Depot were surveyed for rat infestation and treated as necessary.

Withycombe Brook.

The necessary portions of the brook have been treated as and when required.

During the year, 67 visits were made regarding Rat and Mice infestations.

24. SHOPS ACT, 1950

As Sanitary Authority this Council is responsible only for enforcing the provisions of Section 38 of the Shops Act, 1950, which relate to ventilation and heating of shops and sanitary conveniences.

There were 143 premises inspected under the Shops Act, 1950, during the year and all were found to be satisfactory.

25. FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Inspection	Number of	
			Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	14	16	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	74	42	1	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' Premises).	16	16	-	-
TOTAL	104	74	1	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	1	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	4	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act not including offences relating to Outwork.	-	-	1	-	-
TOTAL	6	4	1	1	-

26. HOUSING SURVEY

During the year it was necessary to undertake a Housing Survey of the older houses in the district in order to supply the Minister of Housing and Local Government with the information required under Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 which in turn formed the proposals of the local authority for dealing with unfit houses in their district.

As the Additional Sanitary Inspector did not commence his duties until June, the Survey was unable to commence before that date and terminated on the 15th August 1955.

The Survey comprised 329 houses representing 5.4% of the total of 5,986 houses and required 403 visits.

From the inspection of these 329 houses, it is considered that 37 of them are unfit under the provisions of the Act. Of this number 4 are contiguous and as such will form a block of property suitable for treatment as a clearance area. The remaining 33 are individual houses scattered about the district and will require to be dealt with by action under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936.

The 37 unfit houses represent 0.6% of the total number of houses in the urban district, and 11.2% of the number surveyed.

27.

The following report has been kindly supplied by the Housing Officer, Mr. E.R. Ashton.

During the year, a further 95 dwellings were completed and occupied on the Salterton Road Housing Estate, as follows:-

SALTERTON ROAD HOUSING ESTATE (1955)

Three bedroom houses with garages	...	11
Three bedroom houses	48
Two bedroom flats	18
One bedroom flats	18

(The development of this Estate was commenced in 1952 and up to 31st December 1955 totalled 351 dwellings).

The following figures are given for information:-

Number of families housed during the year:-

New dwellings	95
Dwellings re-let	31
Number of exchanges arranged with other Local Authorities	5
Number of transfers and exchanges arranged on all the Housing Estates	27
Number of families accommodated in requisitioned property, as at 31st December 1955.	None
Number of properties released from requisitioning during the year	23
Number of persons interviewed by the Housing Dept.		1720
Number of visits and investigations by the Housing Department.	1248

Number of new application forms received,
and included on all Housing Lists,
during the year 226

The analysis of the Housing Applications
(excluding those on the Outside List) as at 1st
January 1956, were as follows:-

ACCOMMODATION	TOTAL NO. OF APPLICANTS	HOUSING NEED FOR ALL PURPOSES	ADEQUATELY HOUSED
3 Bedroom	162	83	79
2 Bedroom	73	37	36
1 Bedroom	60	37	23
TOTAL	295	157	138

